

## **Attachment**

### **Input from the UNFCCC secretariat to the first part of the report to the General Assembly regarding “Capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science”**

Under the UNFCCC, issues related to science, research and the systematic observation of the environment in relation to climate change are regularly being considered by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). While the IPCC is the primary provider of scientific information to the Climate Change Convention, the SBSTA is maintaining a regular dialogue with regional and international research programmes and organizations active in areas of research relevant to climate change and the IPCC. This dialogue plays a valuable role in providing new scientific information that emerges from climate change research. In addition to emerging scientific findings, the research community has been invited to also regularly inform the SBSTA of the following developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention: research planning activities (including in response to key uncertainties and research needs identified by the IPCC or raised by Parties); research priorities, and gaps in the implementation of these priorities; research capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries; regional climate change research networks; and relevant communication issues.

Information from the last dialogue meeting held during the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the SBSTA in June 2009, which also included information ocean processes and the marine environment in the context of climate change can be found at:

[http://unfccc.int/methods\\_and\\_science/research\\_and\\_systematic\\_observation/items/4888.php](http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/research_and_systematic_observation/items/4888.php). The next dialogue meeting is expected to take place in June 2010 during the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the SBSTA. It is expected that Parties will provide, by 22 March 2010, their views on topics to be discussed at that meeting.

As regards the systematic observation of the climate, a key element for the implementation of relevant Articles under the Convention (Articles 4.1(g) and 5) has been the cooperation with the relevant global observing systems such as the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Terrestrial Observing Systems (GTOS).

Parties to the Convention provide regular information on their climate change research activities as well as their actions with regard to global climate systematic observations in the context of their national communications. The Conference of the Parties, at its 13<sup>th</sup> session (Bali, December 2007), adopted revised UNFCCC reporting guidelines on global climate change observing systems, which also cover reporting on oceanic essential climate variables. At the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (Copenhagen, December 2009), Parties adopted a decision on systematic climate observations, which, among other issues, urges Parties and invites relevant UN agencies and international organizations, to work towards addressing the priorities and gaps identified in the report on progress with the GCOS Implementation Plan<sup>1</sup> and ensuring sustained long-term operation of essential in situ networks, especially for the oceanic and terrestrial domains, including through the provision of the necessary resources. The decision further invites the GCOS secretariat, under the guidance of the GCOS Steering Committee, to update, by the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the SBSTA (November-December 2010), the GCOS Implementation Plan, taking into account emerging needs in climate observation, in particular those related to adaptation activities.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbsta/eng/misc07.pdf>